

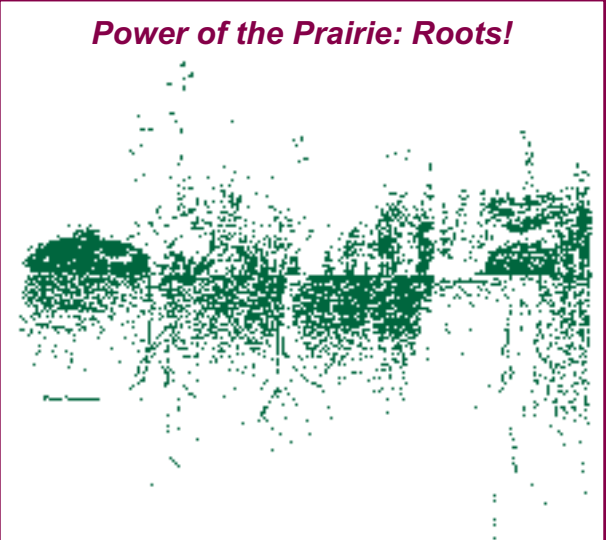
DESCRIPTION OF TRAILS

1. EASY – 1.75 miles. The trail starts at the Meadow View family picnic parking lot and winds through a former Christmas tree plantation of Douglas Fir and then snakes its way through tall grass prairie, adjacent to the Prairie View group picnic area, with big bluestem, Indian grass, little bluestem, side oats grama, and black-eyed Susan. The trail continues into a “fen” and meanders through this marshy area, where you may get your feet wet, before entering a field being invaded by osage orange, wild cherry, mulberry, and multiflora rose. The trail ends up back at the Meadow View family picnic area parking lot.

BIKE / HIKING TRAIL - EASY - 1.8 miles. This initial paved section starts near the park gatehouse and connects all the current facilities at Prophetstown State Park. The trail head parking lot can accommodate 20 vehicles. The Meadow View family picnic parking lot serves as another trailhead, providing a modern restroom, water, and picnic shelter.

PLEASE STAY ON MARKED TRAILS!

Power of the Prairie: Roots!



Did you know that approximately 70% of the average prairie plant is roots? The leaves, stems and flowers account for only about a third of the total living matter. Some prairie plants are known to have roots that exceed twenty feet deep!

Power of the Prairie: Roots! is a reprint from the Priarie Nursery Publication.

ACTIVITIES AND FACILITIES

BIKE / HIKING TRAIL — The 12 foot wide asphalt trail is currently 1.8 miles long and will eventually extend for the entire length of the park (more than 5.2 miles).

CAMPING — The first portion of the family campground provides 110 sites, 55 sites have full electric, sewer and water hookups at each site. The campground has a large comfort station providing modern restrooms and shower facilities, including a family restroom. The campground has one way asphalt roads and fine stone spurs and living areas. All sites are accessible and reservable. Occupancy is limited to two (2) weeks. The family campground will open **May 1, 2005**. Reservations will be accepted for the 2005 season beginning **November 1, 2004** by going online at www.camp.IN.gov or by calling 1-866-6campIN.


HIKING — Trail 1 is 1.75 miles of easy nature trail.

PICNIC AREAS — PRAIRIE VIEW group picnic area has three large picnic shelters and modern restroom facilities. Coneflower shelter contains a fireplace with a cooking grate, serving counters and electrical outlets. Each shelter has picnic tables provided along with one large outside grill. Paved walks connect all picnic shelters, parking lots, restrooms and a large accessible playground. A paved bike/hiking trail connects the Prairie View group picnic area with other areas of the park. The Prairie View group picnic area is reservable. Parking is available for 120 vehicles.

MEADOW VIEW family picnic area has a shelter with tables, modern restrooms, an accessible playground and large outdoor grill. The Meadow View family picnic area connects with the bike trail. The Meadow View family picnic area is reservable. Parking is available for 40 vehicles.

SHELTERS — Reservations will be accepted for 2005 dates beginning **November 1, 2004** by going online at www.camp.IN.gov or by calling 1-866-6campIN. Shelters available are Bobolink, Bergamot, Blazingstar and Coneflower.

Please let wild animals remain wild. Feeding wildlife is prohibited and can result in harm to both animals and people. Animals who depend on hand-outs become a nuisance to park visitors and a danger to themselves. Please lock up all food and coolers inside cars or campers.



The **Museum at Prophetstown** is a non-profit organization that, in a unique partnership with DNR, has recreated a Native American village, restored prairie and a 1920s-era living history farm on 300 acres within the state park. Visitors step back in time to fully appreciate this important part of Indiana history. An additional entry fee is charged to this area.

The Museum at Prophetstown, Inc.
3549 Prophetstown Trail, P.O. Box 331
Battle Ground, Indiana 47920-0331
Call: (765) 567-4700
Website: www.prophetstown.org

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Do not injure or damage any structure, rock, tree, flower, bird or wild animal within the Park. Do NOT gather limbs, brush or trees (either dead or alive) for firewood! It MUST be allowed to remain to rebuild the natural humus.
- Any firearm, BB gun, air gun, CO₂ gun, bow and arrow, or spear gun in possession in a state park must be unloaded or un-nocked and stored in a case or locked within a vehicle except when participating in an activity authorized by written permit.
- Dogs and cats must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and attended at all times.
- There shall be no vending or advertising without permission of the Department of Natural Resources.
- Camping is permitted only in the campground. Youth groups must be under adult supervision.
- Fires shall be built only in places provided.
- Please comply with the Carry In/Carry Out trash policy in all day use areas. Overnight guests must put waste in receptacles provided for that purpose.
- Motorists will observe speed limits as posted, and park in designated areas. 30 m.p.h. maximum.
- Drinking water should be taken only from pumps, hydrants or fountains provided for that purpose. This water is tested regularly for purity.
- Report lost or found articles to the park office.
- Pull off roads while observing wildlife. Feeding of wildlife is prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors is prohibited.

For a complete list of rules and regulations inquire at park office.

THIS IS YOUR PARK

All visitors are expected to observe property rules which are designed to fulfill the purpose for which state parks were established, namely, to preserve a primitive landscape in its natural condition for the use and enjoyment of the people.

CENTRAL RESERVATION SYSTEMS


Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, and shelters at state parks, reservoirs and forests can be made by going online or use the toll free number.

www.camp.IN.gov
1-866-6campIN
(1-866-622-6746)



Reservations for the Indiana State Park Inns and Inn-operated cabins can be made by going online or use the toll free number.

www.indianainns.com
1-877-lodges1
(1-877-563-4371)



Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy!

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Write: Prophetstown State Park
P.O. Box 327
Battle Ground, IN 47920

Call: (765) 567-4919

DNR
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
www.IN.gov/dnr

SPECIAL NOTE

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the park. List of fees available in the park office.

The programs, services, facilities, and activities of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources are available to everyone. DNR prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Natural Resources, Executive Office, 402 W. Washington St., Rm. W256, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 232-4020.

INDIANA

PROPHETSTOWN
STATE PARK



Picture yourself standing above a vast sea of tall grass stretching as far as your eyes can see. Small, open oak woodlands dot this prairie landscape. Steep, narrow bluffs drop to connecting rivers. This view greeted Native Americans and European settlers who first lived in what is now north-western Indiana. Prophetstown State Park is located at the edge of this tallgrass prairie. Over time, this land that is now a park has been shaped by ice, water, fire and human hands.

The glaciers began shaping what is Prophetstown State Park today. Vast quantities of ice moved slowly across this place at least three times, carving the land into gently rolling topography. As the ice receded, rocks carried from the northern part of our continent were left behind. These range in size from large boulders called glacial erratics to the abundant gravel and sand deposits mined commercially today.

As the ice melted, river channels and streams were formed. Some of them were on the surface; some formed the basis for our ample groundwater supply below the surface. In addition, a gravel and soil “dam” holding back glacial Lake Maumee north of what is now Fort Wayne may have burst. Water cascaded southwest in a massive torrent, impacting the flow and direction of the Wabash River and further carving the landscape. The Tippecanoe River meets the Wabash just upstream from Prophetstown State Park, creating seasonal wetlands that are now attractive stopping places for shorebirds and waterfowl.

A unique glacial feature of the park is the presence of fens. A fen is created when groundwater rich in calcium seeps from a slope and runs downhill. Fens are characterized by the growth of grasses, sedges and wildflowers – some of them rare.

Rich soil formed over the glacial deposits. The climate was right for the development of vast prairies. Hundreds of species of wildflowers flourished among the grasses. Plants dried quickly each season, and fire served as a way to release nutrients stored in the massive quantity of flower and grass stems. Fires were generally caused by lightning strikes.

The Native Americans learned to use fire as a tool in maintaining the prairie landscape for hunting. As European settlers moved into the area, they discovered the rich soil’s capacity for growing corn and wheat. Today, the region is a part of “America’s bread-basket” and original remnants of the tallgrass prairie are found only in cemeteries and along railroad tracks where soil was left unturned.

Restoring the prairie is a vital part of our mission at Prophetstown. Each year, a few more acres of soil are replanted with a vast array of native grasses and wildflowers. Many of the wildflowers get their start in our greenhouses, located at the park office. Eventually, up to two-thirds of the park will resemble the landscape seen by our ancestors. We are also removing non-native trees and replanting oaks and other species that were found along river bluffs and in the open woodlands, which are often called savannahs.